



Figures of the Church

Part 1

Ephesians 2:1 1-22

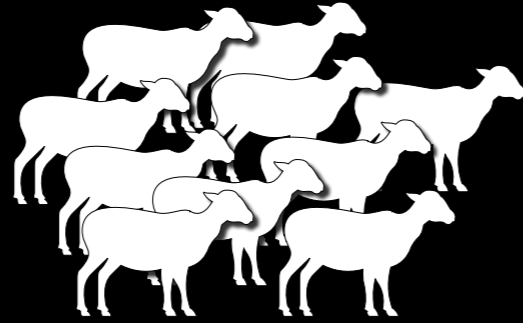


- The church of Christ, an assembly of believers who belong to Christ, is very special.
- To help us understand the church, Paul would use various figures to help us understand God's purpose and plan for his people
- Especially easy to see in his teachings to the Ephesians (Acts, Ephesians)
- Why?
- how do they help us understand our relationship?
- how do they help us to grow in Christ and build each other up?



- Ephesians 2:16-22 (ESV) 16 and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. 17 And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. 18 For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father. 19 So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, 20 built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone, 21 in whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. 22 In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Spirit.
- Start in Acts 20

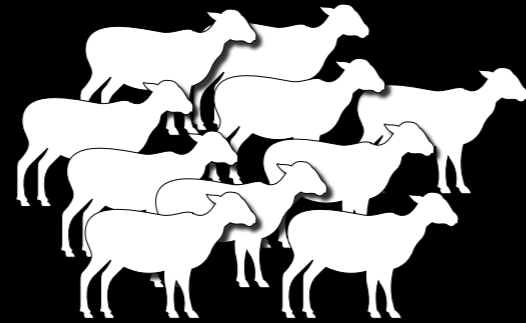
The church is a flock.



Pay careful attention to
yourselves and to all the flock ...
to care for the church of God
Acts 20:28

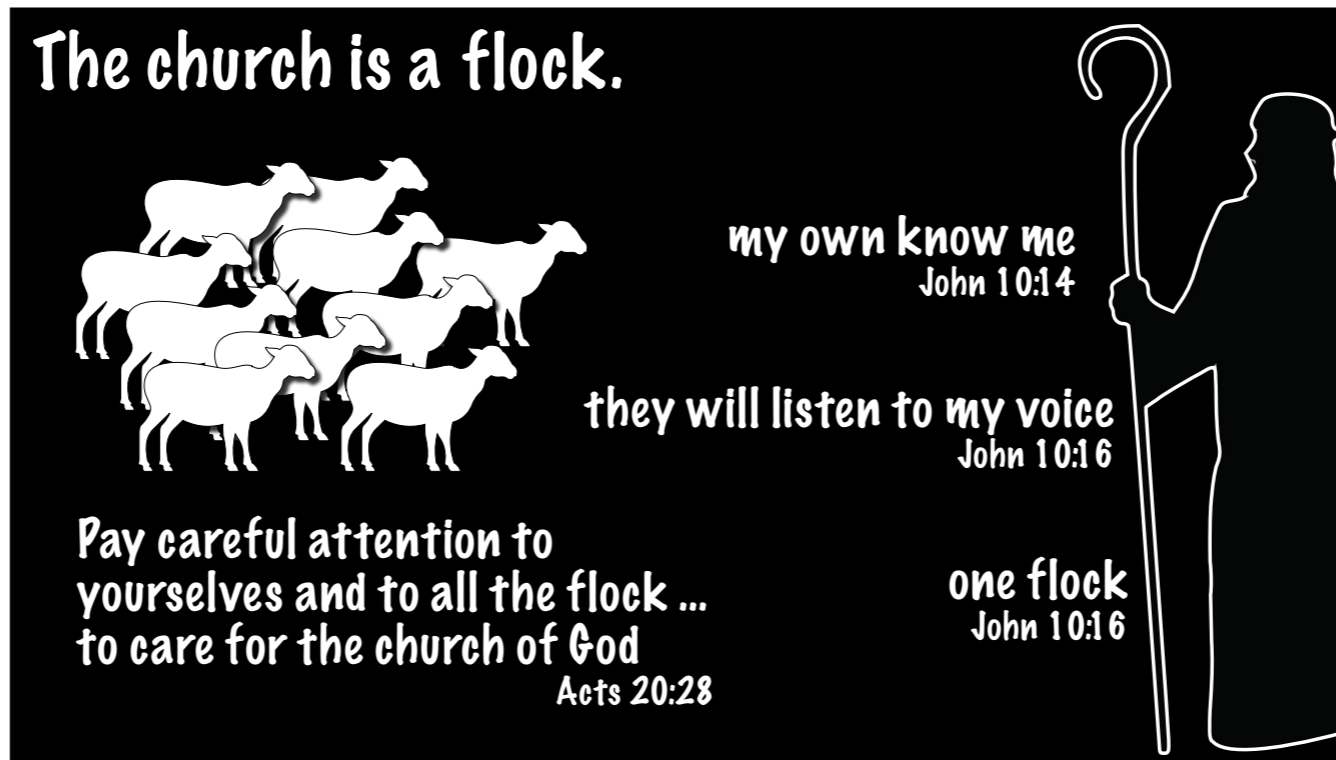
- Acts 20:28-32 (ESV) 28 Pay **careful attention** to yourselves and to all the flock, in which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to **care** for the church of God, which he obtained with his own blood.
 - 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, **not sparing the flock**; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them.
 - 31 Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears.
 - 32 And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

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Acts 20:28

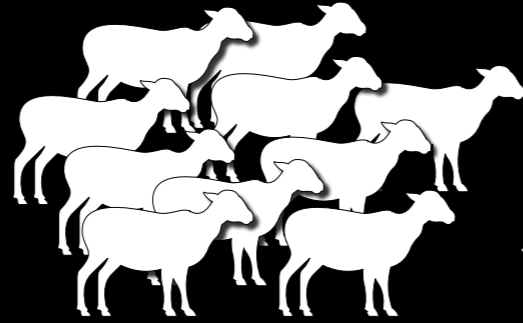
- John 10:11-18 (ESV)
 - 11 I am the good shepherd.
 - The good shepherd lays down his life for the **sheep**.
 - 14 I am the good shepherd.
 - I know my own and **my own know me**,
 - 15 just as the Father knows me and I know the Father;
 - and I lay down my life for the **sheep**.
 - 16 And I have **other sheep** that are not of this fold.
 - I must bring them also,
 - and **they will listen to my voice**.
 - **So there will be one flock, one shepherd**.
 - 17 For this reason the Father loves me, because I lay down my life that I may take it up again.
 - 18 No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord.
 - I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again.
 - This charge I have received from my Father.”



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The church is a flock.



my own know me
John 10:14

they will listen to my voice
John 10:16

Pay careful attention to
yourselves and to all the flock ...
to care for the church of God
Acts 20:28

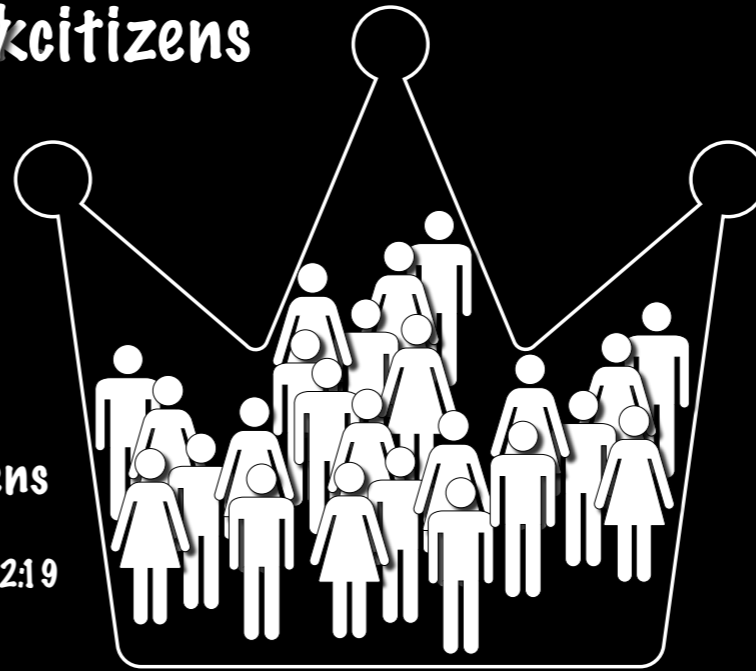
one flock
John 10:16



- Shepherd: Christ
 - my own
 - know me
 - listen (follow willingly)
 - unity
- many sheep, one flock

The church is fellow citizens

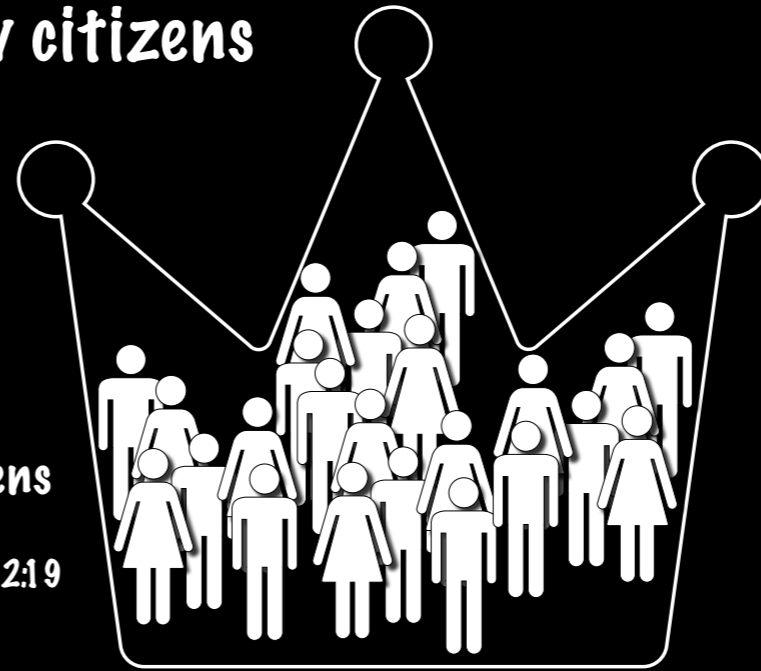
**you are fellow citizens
with the saints**
Ephesians 2:19



- Ephesians 2:19: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,
 - Fellow-citizens (Kingdom)

The church is fellow citizens

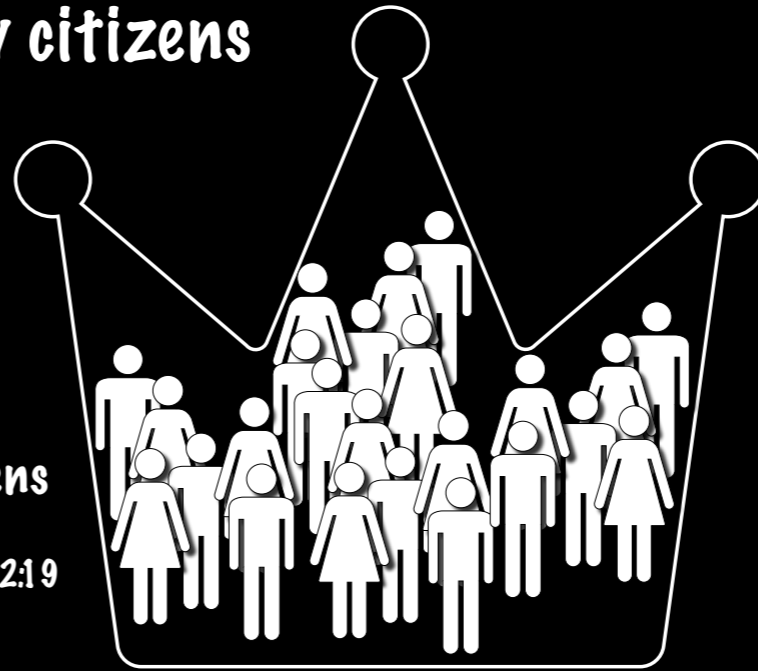
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Ephesians 2:19



- no longer strangers or aliens
 - Colossians 1:13-14 (ESV) 13 He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, 14 in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.
 - separated from God by sin
 - citizens of world, domain of darkness
- kingdom of his beloved son
 - redemption
 - forgiveness of sins

The church is fellow citizens

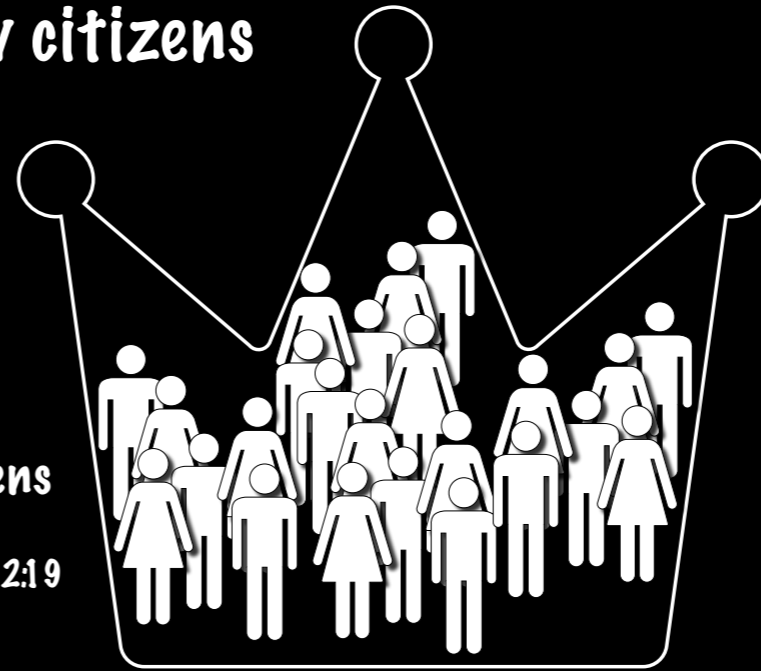
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Ephesians 2:19



- John 18:36 (ESV) 36 Jesus answered, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would have been fighting, that I might not be delivered over to the Jews. But my kingdom is not from the world.”
- Romans 14:17 (ESV) 17 For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.

The church is fellow citizens

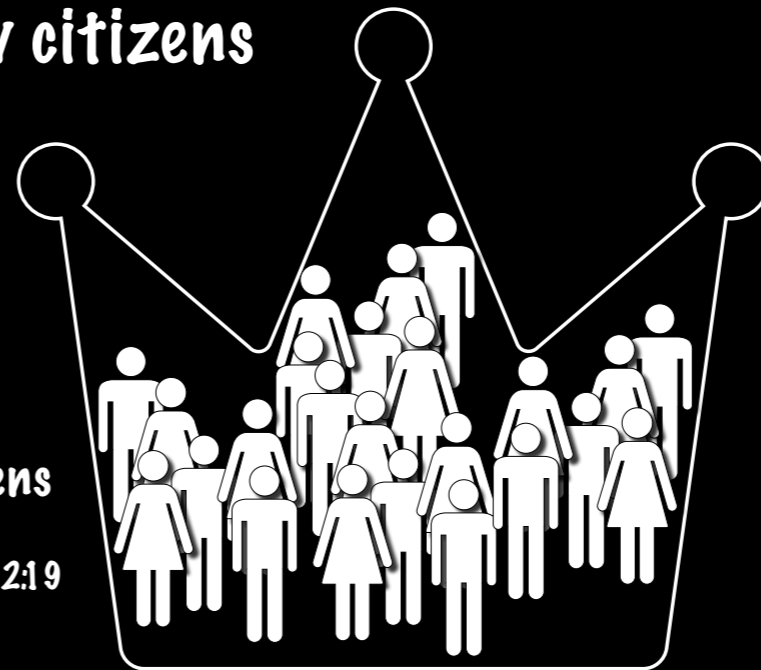
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Ephesians 2:19



- Hebrews 12:28-29 (ESV) 28 Therefore let us be grateful for receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus let us offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe, 29 for our God is a consuming fire.
- Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV) 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

The church is fellow citizens

you are fellow citizens
with the saints
Ephesians 2:19



- Relationship with God and Jesus
 - “members”
- Spiritual: righteousness, joy, peace in Holy Spirit
- Worship with reverence and awe
- Wait for Savior; transformed body

The church is ~~fellows citizens~~



- Ephesians 2:19: So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and **members of the household of God**,
 - Household (Family)

The church is an household



- Romans 8:14-17 (ESV)
 - 14 For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God.
 - 15 For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear,
 - but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!”
 - 16 The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,
 - 17 and if children, then heirs—
 - heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ,
 - provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

The church is an household



- Family is the most basic relationship
- Father - God
- Brother - Christ
- members - brothers and sisters
- heirs

The church is an household



- Matthew 12:49-50 (ESV) 49 And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! 50 For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”
- Galatians 6:10 So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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One Another

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Compiled and Presented by:
Dave Stewart
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www.1corinthians1614.com

Figures of the Church - Part 1

Ephesians 2:11-22

Synopsis: Paul uses 6 different figures of the church to help us understand the nature of the church: flock, kingdom, family, temple, body, and bride. Five of these (in part) emphasize the unity of the body which has many members, reminding us of the value and necessity of each of us in the church.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”